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Origin

Info:

ACTION: AmEmbassy NEW DELHI

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STATE

SUBJECT: Chinese ICBM Tests

1. CBS Correspondent Marvin Kalb (protect) has informed Department of recent conversation with Indian Ambassador Jung. According Kalb, Jung stated categorically that the Chinese Communists had informed the Indian Government that when Peking was ready to test ICBMs, they would conduct the tests over India into the Indian Ocean. Jung did not indicate when the Chinese made their announcement to the Indians.

2. Appreciate any information which MEA China watchers or other Indian officials can provide on this subject.

3. FYI. Although Indian Ocean is logical impact area for Chinese ICBM test, this is first report we have seen that Peking has expressed intention to test in that or any other direction. While Chinese appear capable of making such a test within the next year or so, we do not believe test is imminent.

RICHARDSON

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Clearances:

NEA/INC - Mr. Quainton (in draft)

EA/ACA - Mr. Anderson (in draft)

INR/RNA - Mr. Gustafson (in draft)

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